

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) An apparatus for directing a boat's engine exhaust away from a person behind the boat to reduce exposure of the person to the engine exhaust, the boat having a engine with at least one exhaust manifold, the apparatus comprising:

a port side exhaust outlet connected by a first exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the boat;

a starboard side exhaust outlet connected by a second exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the boat; and

valve means connected to said first and second exhaust conduits for directing the engine exhaust out of one of the port and starboard exhaust outlets, the valve means including a first valve connected to the first exhaust conduit for controlling flow of engine exhaust through the first exhaust conduit to the port side exhaust outlet, and a second valve connected to the second exhaust conduit for controlling flow of engine exhaust through the second exhaust conduit to the starboard side exhaust outlet, and ~~means for linking a connector rod forming a mechanical linkage between~~ said first and second valves ~~together for reciprocal motion~~ so that opening of one of the first and second valves simultaneously closes the other of the first and second valves, such that the engine exhaust is directed out of one of the port or starboard side exhaust outlets.

Claim 2 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said first and second exhaust conduits are connected to the at least one engine exhaust manifold at about a 90 degree angle.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, ~~wherein the first and second valves are electrically controlled valves, and the means for linking the first and second valves comprises further comprising~~ a controller unit operatively connected to said connector rod for opening one of said first and second valves and closing the other of said first and second valves.

Claims 5-6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 4 Claim 6, wherein the ~~means for linking comprises a mechanical linkage between said first and second valves, and said valve control means controller unit comprises a mechanical control connected to said mechanical linkage for opening one of said first and second valves and closing the other of said first and second valves.~~

Claim 8 (Currently amended) A method for directing a boat's engine exhaust out of either the port or starboard side of the boat, away from a person behind the boat to reduce exposure of the person to the engine exhaust, the boat having an engine with at least one exhaust manifold, a port side exhaust outlet connected by a first exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the boat, and a starboard side exhaust outlet connected by a second exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the boat, a flow of engine exhaust to said port and starboard exhaust outlets being controlled

by first and second valves in said first and second exhaust conduits, respectively, the
method comprising:

controlling a flow of engine exhaust to permit the flow of engine exhaust through
one of the first and second exhaust conduits port and starboard side exhaust outlets by
simultaneously opening one of the first and second valves and closing the other of the
first and second valves, such that directing the engine exhaust out of one of the exhaust
conduits port and starboard side exhaust outlets prevents directing the engine exhaust out
of the other of the exhaust conduits port and starboard side exhaust outlets.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently amended) An apparatus for directing a power boat's engine exhaust away from a wake wave on which a person is wake surfing behind and to one of the port and starboard sides of the power boat to reduce exposure of the person to the engine exhaust, the power boat having an engine with at least one exhaust manifold, the apparatus comprising:

a port side exhaust outlet connected by a first exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the power boat;

a starboard side exhaust outlet connected by a second exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the power boat; and

valve means connected to said first and second exhaust conduits for directing the
engine exhaust out of one of the port and starboard exhaust outlets, such that directing the
engine exhaust out of one of the exhaust outlets prevents directing the engine exhaust out
of the other of the exhaust outlets

a first electrical controlled valve connected to the first exhaust conduit for controlling flow of engine exhaust through the first exhaust conduit to the port side exhaust outlet;

a second electrically controlled valve connected to the second exhaust conduit for controlling flow of engine exhaust through the second exhaust conduit to the starboard side exhaust outlet; and

a controller unit operatively connected to said first and second electrically controlled valves for reciprocally switching one of the first and second electrically controlled valves open and the other of the first and second electrically controlled valves closed, such that the engine exhaust is directed out of one of the port or starboard side exhaust outlets.

Claim 11 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said first and second exhaust conduits are connected to the at least one engine exhaust manifold at about a 90 degree angle.

Claims 12-16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Currently amended) A method for directing a power boat's engine exhaust out of either the port or starboard side of the power boat, away from a wake wave on which a person is wake surfing behind the power boat and to one of the port and starboard sides of the power boat to reduce exposure of the person to the engine exhaust, the power boat having an engine with at least one exhaust manifold, the boat having a an engine with at least one exhaust manifold, a port side exhaust outlet connected by a first exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the boat, and a starboard

side exhaust outlet connected by a second exhaust conduit to the at least one engine exhaust manifold of the boat, said port and starboard exhaust outlets being connected to said at least one exhaust manifold by first and second electrically controlled valves, respectively, the method comprising:

controlling flow of engine exhaust by simultaneously opening one of the first and second electrically controlled valves and closing the other of the first and second electrically controlled valves to permit the flow of engine exhaust through one of the first and second exhaust conduits port and starboard side exhaust outlets, such that directing the engine exhaust out of one of the exhaust conduits port and starboard side exhaust outlets prevents directing the engine exhaust out of the other of the exhaust conduits port and starboard side exhaust outlets.

Claims 18-22 (Cancelled)